

A history in the making:

The journey from the Mediterranean to Northern Virginia

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The Mediterranean Division

Headquarters Locations

1952 – Casablanca, Morocco

1954 – Nouasseur, Morocco

1957 – Camp Darby, Italy, with a staff of 1,500; by 1958, end strength was 1,957.

February 1976 – The engineer unit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, was activated as the U.S. Army Construction Activity, Mideast, with a rear echelon established near Berryville, Va., 35 miles west of Dulles International Airport.

April 20, 1976 – Army Construction Activity became the Middle East Division.

June 1976 – The Rear Echelon, the Saudi Arabia District, New York Liaison Office, and the district office in Jidda all transitioned from the Mediterranean Division to the Middle East Division.

Late 1976 – The Mediterranean Division closed out remaining responsibilities and quietly passed out of existence.

Organizational Elements

Rear Echelon Office, New York City, NY

Middle East District, Libya

East Atlantic District, Morocco

U.S. Engineer Group, Turkey

Trans-East District, Karachi, Pakistan

Gulf District, Teheran, Iran

Southern District, Livorno, Italy

Saudi Arabia District, Jidda, Saudi Arabia

Commanders

Brig. Gen. Orville E. Walsh, February to December 1952

Col. Jack P. Campbell, January to April 1953

Brig. Gen. Walter K. Wilson Jr., April 1953 to June 1955

Brig. Gen. Benjamin B. Talley, June 1955 to April 1956

Brig. Gen. Lawrence J. Lincoln, April 1956 to August 1958

Brig. Gen. William R. Shuler, August 1958 to September 1960

Col. Arthur C. Nauman, September 1960 to July 1963

Col. Andrew D. Chaffin Jr., July 1963 to March 1966

Col. Harry F. Cameron Jr., March 1966 to May 1968

Col. Edward L. Waddell Jr., May 1968 to March 1971

Col. Roy L. Kackley Jr., March 1971 to February 1973

Col. Charles T. Williams, February 1973 to June 1976

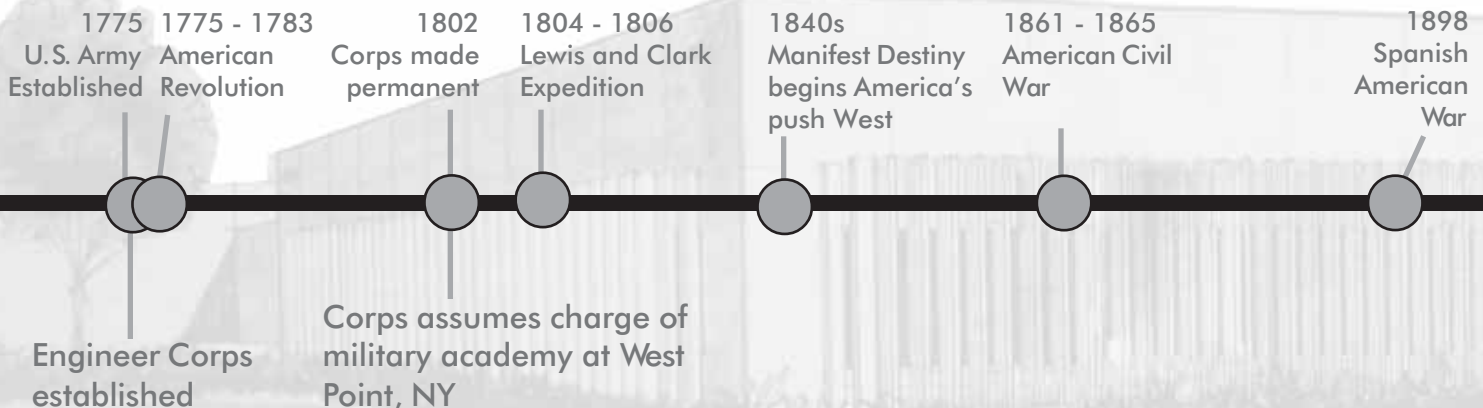
Established on Feb. 14, 1952, the Mediterranean Division was the first postwar Corps of Engineers' division headquartered overseas.

The division was established in

the mid-1950s to manage construction for the U.S. military, but by the middle of the decade, the mission had expanded to designing and constructing

facilities for allied countries through the military assistance program.

Initially, the division absorbed the work of the East Ocean



Division's three existing districts — Middle East District in Libya, the East Atlantic District in Morocco, and the U.S. Engineer Group in Turkey.

The division managed military construction projects on behalf of the U.S. Air Force in Turkey, Libya, Saudi Arabia and Morocco and constructed military facilities in Pakistan and Iran.

Non-military projects included civilian air terminals in Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Iran; a road system in Afghanistan; port facilities in Somalia; communications facilities in Italy, Greece and Turkey; and design and construction of a countrywide black-and-white television system and a radio station complex in Saudi Arabia.

Projects were accomplished in northeastern Africa and the NATO countries of southern Europe, for the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard and the U.S. Agency for International Development. Work was completed in Greece, Turkey, Italy, Ethiopia, Somalia, Libya and Saudi Arabia.

The Mediterranean Division's horizons in design and construction were expanded with the increased importance of the Middle East and its resources.



File photo

The Dhahran Civil Air Terminal was one of the earliest Corps of Engineers' projects in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Mediterranean Division's Saudi Arabia District constructed the project with the U.S. Agency for International Development funding between 1959 to 1961.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia financed an \$18 billion construction program. Logistical and communications issues decreed the formation of a supervisory engineer construction agency in Saudi Arabia (which existed for only two months before the establishment of the Middle East Division).

As reported in the March 1976 issue of the Mediterranean

Division's command information newsletter, *Castle Comments*, the story of the Mediterranean Division was 24 years of building and managing several hundred million dollars of design and construction effort. "But the story has also been one of people — people with modern methods and equipment working in lands whose native technology sometimes paralleled the ancientness of the land."

1914 - 1918
World War I

1921
Afghanistan achieves
sovereignty after 84
years of British rule

1935
Hitler orders
rearmament of
German forces

1941 - 1945
World War II

1950
U.S. military
advisors sent to
Southern Vietnam

1951
Korean War
Begins

Manhattan Project
founded in 1941 to
develop atomic bomb

Feb. 14, 1952
Mediterranean
Division activated